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COMMITTEE ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS
21 January-1 February 1991
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

APPLICATIONS FOR CONSULTATIVE STATUS

Re-examination of the consultative status of CARE International and Save the Children Alliance

Note by the Secretariat

I. CARE International

1. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, at its session in 1987, decided to grant to CARE International consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II. The Committee invited the organization to consult its affiliate, CARE (Co-operative for American Relief Everywhere, Inc.), also in consultative status, category II, in order to appoint a single non-governmental organization to represent each of them to the Economic and Social Council. The Committee also decided that at its 1989 session it would re-examine the matter in the light of the results of those consultations (E/1987/32, para. 12, footnote 7).

2. At its session in 1989, the Committee was informed by the Secretariat that CARE International had communicated the following:

> "CARE International has considered the matter with CARE USA, one of its affiliates, and it has been agreed that CARE International shall be CARE's representative to the United Nations. We understand that this may mean that CARE USA will no longer have category II consultative status, although we request that, if possible, that action be postponed while CARE International seeks category I status" (see E/C.2/1989/CRP.1, para. 2).

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* E/C.2/1991/1.

3. At the same session, the Committee decided to defer its decision on the matter to its session in 1991, on an exceptional basis and without establishing a precedent, bearing in mind the administrative arrangements and reorganization of the organizations concerned. It noted that reclassification requested by any of those organizations would be considered on its own merits, independently of the request that the Committee has made to the organizations in compliance with paragraph 10 of Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) (see E/1989/40, para. 13).

4. CARE International is now requesting reclassification to category I. The request is contained in document E/C.2/R.4/1991/Add.1.

II. Save the Children Alliance

5. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, at its session in 1987, decided to grant to Save the Children Alliance consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II. The Committee invited the organization to consult its affiliates (Radda Barnen International (Sweden), Save the Children Federation (USA) and Save the Children Fund (United Kingdom), which are all in consultative status, category II) in order to appoint a single non-governmental organization to represent them to the Economic and Social Council. The Committee also decided that at its 1989 session it would re-examine the matter in the light of the result of those consultations (see E/1987/32, para. 12, footnote 7).

6. At its session in 1989, the Committee was informed by the Secretariat that Save the Children Alliance had communicated the following:

> "We are discussing the issue with our members in view of the fact that the International Alliance [Save the Children Alliance (Norway)] and our national members have different roles to play at different levels of the work of the Economic and Social Council. We shall, therefore, be prepared to comply with your requests when the matter is further clarified."

Save the Children Alliance further submitted the following statement to the Secretariat:

> "The members of the International Save the Children Alliance (ISCA) have been discussing the matter of whether the newly granted category II status of ISCA should affect the current category II consultative status of individual members of ISCA. I believe strongly that Save the Children Fund/US (SCF/US) must retain its consultative status as a separate agency, at least until 1998.
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> "SCF/US has had a long and rich relationship with the United Nations, both in depth and in scope. For example, in many of the 40 countries where we implement programs, we collaborate operationally with UNHCR, UNDP, UNICEF and UNDRO. This collaboration takes the form of not only setting mutual programme objectives and sharing resources, but also receiving funding from United Nations agencies for projects that we directly manage. For fiscal year 1988, we implemented United Nations-funded programs totalling $1.486 million.

"In addition to our operational collaboration internationally, SCF/US has a Washington, D.C. representative who co-operates closely with the UNA and who helps to mobilize various coalitions in support of United Nations programs and congressional funding for the United Nations.

"SCF/US also maintains a New York office where we follow United Nations activities and initiatives. We attend especially to matters affecting children and collaborate very closely with UNICEF in this regard.

"The recent emergence of ISCA as a more active body, with its own consultative status and its own Geneva representative, is a positive development for its members and for the United Nations. We look to the new ISCA with expectations that it will strengthen our collaboration with the United Nations and its agencies, especially in the advocacy and informational activities previously carried out by our own New York office. Neither SCF/US nor ISCA anticipates, however, that ISCA or its Geneva representative will carry out the extensive liaison necessary to continue and expand our own agency's broad programmatic and operational collaboration with United Nations agencies or our advocacy work in Washington, D.C. The consultative roles of ISCA and SCF/US are complementary, not duplicative. The United Nations, ISCA and SCF/US would lose ground by imposing on the nascent structure of ISCA the responsibility of maintaining the significant financial, operational and national advocacy work that SCF/US currently shares with the United Nations. The roles of ISCA and SCF/US are simply so different at this time that maintaining separate consultative status is critical to the effective continuation of our diverse international and national involvement with the United Nations.

"It is possible that by 1998 the ISCA structure and definition will have developed to the point that our unique consultative needs could be undertaken by ISCA. At such a point, we would be most willing to discontinue our consultative status in favour of that of ISCA.

"Let me also assure you that by allowing SCF/US to maintain its category II status until ISCA is more fully developed, you will not be setting a precedent for other ISCA members to apply for consultative status. ISCA has agreed that no other Save the Children organizations will seek separate consultative status. Only those few national agencies that are currently members, and that have in the past established the need for individual status, are seeking to keep that status for the time being. All 18 other members share category II status through ISCA and do not have the need, as we do, for an individual relationship.

"Again let me emphasize that my strong conviction that SCF/US maintain its individual status is based on my knowledge of what this relationship has meant for hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries around the world, most of them children, and for the hundreds of thousands of American donors and friends of SCF/US. I firmly believe that it is in the best interests of the United Nations, ISCA and SCF/US to continue this relationship on an individual

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consultative basis, while at the same time building a separate, international, advocacy-oriented relationship between the United Nations and ISCA" (see E/C.2/1989/CRP.1, para. 8).

7. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, at its session in 1989, decided to defer its decision on the matter to its session in 1991, on an exceptional basis and without establishing a precedent, bearing in mind the administrative arrangements and reorganization of the organizations concerned (see E/1989/40, para. 13).

8. The International Save the Children Alliance has communicated to the Secretariat the following updated information:

"We would argue strongly that the three organizations, namely Radda Barnen International, Save the Children Federation and Save the Children Fund, need to retain consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in their own right, as well as through the International Save the Children Alliance (ISCA). We fully appreciate that there is a strong desire on the part of national non-governmental organizations to be represented through their respective international bodies, should they exist. However, we would argue strongly that Radda Barnen International, Save the Children Federation and Save the Children Fund are themselves international non-governmental organizations since they operate ... in many different countries in their own right and not through ISCA. Save the Children Fund has operational projects in 52 different countries; for Save the Children Federation the number is 37 and for Radda Barnen International, 28. The aims of ISCA and the aims of these internationally operational members of ISCA are completely different with regard to the use made of their consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. We would venture to say that if these three organizations lost consultative status, they would continue to operate but the Economic and Social Council would lose a great deal.

"We do hope the matter can be discussed again. Our request is that the status quo be maintained for a further three years at least."